

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166372

73

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02

TRSE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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PAGE 02 STATE 166372

SUBJECT: SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 14391; (B) USUN 2596 (C) KUWAIT 3115
(NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE SHOULD NOW APPROACH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO URGE STRONGLY THAT SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BE MADE TO UNRWA TO MEET THIS YEAR'S DEFICIT AND SAVE AGENCY FROM COLLAPSE BEFORE END OF YEAR. COMMISSIONER-GENERAL RENNIE AND SYG WALDHEIM (REFTEL B) IN SERIES OF NEW YORK MEETINGS DECIDED TO MAKE A NUMBER OF DIRECT, TELEGRAPHIC APPROACHES TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT; THESE TELEGRAMS WERE SENT JUNE 21. SIR JOHN WELCOMED US EFFORTS WITH KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, AND QATAR, WHICH HE BELIEVED WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF SYG'S PRESENTATIONS AND HIS OWN WORK. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING PARAS AT YOUR DISCRETION:

2. US ACTION: SENATE APROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DID NOT APPROVE ADMINISTRATION'S \$40 MILLION BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR UNRWA. HOWEVER, AN ADDITIONAL \$12 MILLION HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED AND, IF APPROVED, WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO UNRWA EARLY IN OCTOBER, 1976. FURTHER EFFORTS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL MONEY FROM CONGRESS WILL BE DECIDED UPON AFTER CONGRESSIONAL RECESS.

3. THE WELCOME SAUDI ARABIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF \$10 MILLION SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION HAS EASED UNRWA'S CRISIS FOR ONE MONTH AS NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS CAN NOW BE PUT OFF FROM END OF JUNE TO END OF JULY. JAPAN HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL GIVE \$1/2 MILLION MORE IN RICE, AND UK HAS SAID IT WILL MATCH ROUGHLY 10PCOF OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS. EC-9 IS CONSIDERING COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES ON URGING OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL AND USG. CANADIANS HAVE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT US ACTIONS. OBVIOUSLY ALL DONORS WATCHING OTHERS, AND COORDINATED EFFORTS BY US, EC-9, ARABS, AND OTHERS ARE ESSENTIAL.

4. US HAS BEEN MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR OVER YEARS, HAVING GIVEN CLOSE TO 65PCOF TOTAL SINCE 1948, ALTHOUGH PERCENTAGE HAS DECREASED AS NEW AND OLD DONORS HAVE GIVEN MORE. UK HAS BEEN SECOND LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR. IN 1975 US CONTRIBUTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 166372

\$42 MILLION TO UNRWA, OR ROUGHLY 36PCOF TOTAL BUDGET OF \$116 MILLION. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS LAST YEAR WERE: EC-9 NATIONAL AND COLLECTIVE \$30.3 MILLION; NORDIC COUNTRIES, EXCLUDING DENMARK, \$7.7 MILLION; JAPAN \$5 MILLION; CANADA \$3.1 MILLION; SAUDI ARABIA \$11.2 MILLION; UAE \$2.8 MILLION AND QATAR \$1 MILLION. SPECIAL ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$13 MILLION (SAUDI ARABIA 10, UAE 2, QATAR 1) WERE BREAKTHROUGH FOR UNRWA AS ARABIAN PENINSULAR STATES HAD NEVER BEFORE

GIVEN MORE THAN TOKEN AMOUNTS. OTHER ARAB CONTRIBUTORS WERE: LIBYA \$600,000; KUWAIT \$400,000; IRAQ \$122,000; MOROCCO \$57,000; OMAN \$25,000; BAHREIN \$20,000; TUNISIA \$7,000; AND SUDAN \$6,000. FOR ABU DHABI: IN RESPONSE TO ABU DHABI 1601 (NOTAL) UAE FIRST GAVE \$200,000 IN 1972, \$220,000 IN 1973 AND \$250,000 IN 1974. BIG JUMP OF \$2 MILLION TO \$2.8 MILLION, 2PCOF TOTAL UNRWA BUDGET, CAME LAST YEAR, AND WE WOULD THIS HOPE WOULD BE CONTINUED OR INCREASED AS SAUDI ARABIA HAS DONE.

5. IF ENOUGH CONTRIBUTIONS TO KEEP UNRWA IN OPERATION IN 1976 ARE FORTHCOMING, US WILL BE WILLING TO WORK DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ATTEMPT TO PUT UNRWA ON A SOUNDER FINANCIAL BASIS TO AVOID THIS PERENNIAL FINANCIAL CRISIS. ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH MIGHT BE INFORMAL COMMITMENT BY VARIOUS DONORS TO PERCENTAGE OF UNRWA'S BUDGET. PERHAPS VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS CAN BEGIN THINKING NOW OF VARIOUS STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN AND OF PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

6. FOR KUWAIT: AMBASSADOR MAY WISH AWAIT OUTCOME OF JULY 4 CABINET MEETING (PARA 2 REFTEL C) TO SEE IF FURTHER EFFORT IS NECESSARY TO GET MORE UNRWA FUNDS FROM KUWAIT.

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